



DECISION MEMO
COUVERDEN/HOMESHORE MARINE ACCESS FACILITY
DECOMMISSIONING
U.S. FOREST SERVICE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
HOMESHORE ROAD SYSTEM
JUNEAU RANGER DISTRICT
JUNEAU, ALASKA

BACKGROUND

The Marine Access Facility (MAF) that exists at Homeshore is a log dump style bulkhead with a causeway for access. While the sheetpiling was protected by zincs, it has sustained winter storm damage and is showing signs of deterioration and failure due to age and corrosion. This type of log transfer is no longer utilized and thus the site is not useful as it currently stands. The site was constructed in the 1980s.

DECISION

I have decided to convert the existing bulkhead Log Transfer Facility into a ramp type Marine Access Facility in order to reduce maintenance burden and prevent fill material from falling into the navigable waters of Icy Strait when the sheet pile walls fail.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures at 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(18),

“Restoring wetlands, streams, riparian areas, or other waterbodies by removing, replacing, or modifying water control structures, such as, but not limited to, dams, levees, dikes, ditches, culverts, pipes, drainage tiles, valves, gates, and fencing, to allow waters to flow into natural channels and floodplains and restore natural flow regimes to the extent practicable where valid existing water rights or special use authorizations are not unilaterally altered or cancelled.”

This category of action(s) is applicable because it modifies the existing facility that affects wave action on the beach and returns portions of the beach to previous grade before the Log Transfer Facility existed.

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive

species – Sensitive plant species are in the area, but no impact is expected due to pre-disturbed area being utilized.

- Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds – none present.
- Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas – none present.
- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas – none present.
- Research natural areas – none present.
- American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites – None are present. Consultation with Douglas Indian Association was conducted on March 18, 2021
- Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas – No known heritage resources are present. The project is in a previous disturbed site. Consultation with Douglas Indian Association was conducted on March 18, 2021. If any resources are encountered at the sites that are not modern or associated with past logging efforts, contact a forest archaeologist to have the resource evaluated.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This action was listed as a proposal on the Tongass National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions in June 2021. A GovDelivery notice describing the project and requesting comments and feedback was sent to members of the public that have identified themselves as interested in projects on the Juneau Ranger District. No comments were received.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This decision is consistent with the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan. The project was designed in conformance with forest-wide and Scenic Viewshed land use designation direction.

A permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers is required for fill or removal of fill from waterways, and a modification to the State permit is required for fill below mean high tide.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

This decision falls within a category of actions that are not subject to administrative review opportunities.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

This decision may be implemented immediately.



CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Reuben Glaves at reuben.glaves@usda.gov or 907-828-3219.

Tristan Fluharty

Juneau District Ranger

10/4/2021

Date

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.